

place in the plumage of a female quail in his possession, and which was now assuming the garb of a typical male bird.

EXHIBITS.

By Mr. F. G. A. Barnard.—Fifteen species of wild flowers from Plenty Ranges, including *Grevillea alpina*, *Eriostemon correfolius*, *Bauera rubioides*, *Sprengelia incarnata*, and *Goodia lotifolia*.

By Mr. R. A. Bastow.—Specimens of mosses collected on the Club's excursion to Eltham on Saturday, 11th October.

By Mr. A. Coles.—Skin of Black Snake, *Pseudechys porphyriacus*, measuring seven feet six inches in length, shot at Stratford, Gippsland.

By Mr. C. French, jun.—Scale Insect, *Lecanium berberides*, now doing considerable damage to vines in Victoria.

By Master C. French.—Stone used by aborigines for grinding food, from Terang, Victoria.

By Mr. J. H. Gatliff.—The following marine shells:—*Solarium perspectivum*, Linn., *Solarium perdia*, Hinds. (including a specimen obtained by Mr. D. Le Souëf at the Barrier Reef, North Queensland); *S. ethiopica*, Pease; *S. reevei*, Pils.; *S. crenella*, Linn.; *S. cingulum*, Kien.; *Phillipa lutea*, Lamk.

By Mr. G. A. Keartland.—Collection of eggs of all known Australian Cockatoos, as follows:—*Microglossus aterrimus*, *Calyptorhynchus macrorhynchus*, *C. stellatus*, *C. baudini*, *C. leachii*, *C. banksia*, *C. funereus*, *Callocephalon galeatum*, *Cacatua galerita*, *C. leadbeateri*, *C. sanguinea*, *C. gymnopsis*, *C. roseicapilla*, *Licmetis nasica*, *L. pastinator*. Also native sheath knife and fishing lines from Northern Territory.

By Mr. D. Le Souëf.—Clutch of eggs of Western Winking Owl, *Ninox connivens*, sub-sp. *occidentalis*, and eggs of Powerful Owl, *Ninox strenua*, North Australia, and Great-billed Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus macrorhynchus*, North Australia.

By Mr. J. G. Luehmann.—Victorian plants from new localities, collected by Mr. H. B. Williamson, Hawkesdale.

By Mr. J. Stickland.—The Star Puff-ball (Geaster), from Eltham.

After the usual conversazione the meeting terminated.

NOTES ON A SINGULAR COCCID FROM VICTORIA.

By ERNEST E. GREEN, F.E.S., Government Entomologist,
Ceylon.

(Communicated by C. French, F.L.S.)

(Read before the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, 13th Oct., 1902.)

SOME examples of a coccid forwarded to me by Mr. C. French, Government Entomologist, Department of Agriculture, Victoria,

have proved on examination to be specimens of *Orthezia floccosa*, De Geer. They were found "on some old and wet timber at the 300-foot level in a mine in Gippsland, Victoria," a truly remarkable situation in which to find living Coccidæ! The food of *O. floccosa* has not been absolutely determined in Europe. The insects are usually found amongst wet moss or Sphagnum, and it is possible that they may feed either on these mosses or upon Algæ associated therewith. All the species of *Orthezia* appear to be able to exist for long periods without food (a characteristic found also in many *Monophlebinæ*). It is possible that these individuals from the mine may have been carried down from the surface with the timber, and to have sustained themselves upon small cryptogamic plants during their sojourn underground. These same examples survived the journey by post from Australia to Ceylon, absolutely without food, and are still living in the pill-box in which they were received.

In comparing the insects with European species for the purposes of determination I noticed a character in *O. floccosa* which does not appear to have been remarked before, distinguishing it from all its allies, but connecting it with *Ortheziola*. The tibio-tarsal articulation is absent in all the legs, and the terminal segment of the antenna is apparently composed of two fixed joints, forming a scape-like termination, the antennæ thus consisting of seven distinct joints as in *Ortheziola* to eight in other species. In *Ortheziola* another remarkable character is the very long basal joint of the antennæ; the number is still further reduced, three only being apparent.

Signoret (*Essai*, p. 424) considers *floccosa* to be a synonym of *urtica*, L., but it seems evident to me that he has confused the two species in his description, and figures (plate xxi., fig. 1b) which Signoret suggests (with a query) may be male larvæ of *urtica* is really the adult of *floccosa*. His drawing correctly represents it with fixed tibio-tarsus and long terminal joint to the seven-jointed antennæ.

This is the first record of an *Orthezia* from the Australasian region. I have compared the Australian insect with examples from Bohemia and England, and it agrees with the typical form in every character. With this connecting link it is a question whether *Ortheziola* should rank as more than a sub-genus. Another sub-genus might be erected for the species having fixed tibio-tarsus with seven-jointed antennæ. I would suggest the name *Douglasia* for the proposed sub-genus, in honour of the veteran entomologist whose valuable papers on Coccidæ were a feature of the "Annals" for so many years. Type, *Douglasia floccosa*.